



TECH BYTES



Orange Board of Education

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Choosito!
search and learn ©

<https://www.choosito.com/>

As educators, we know that you strive to instill to your students curiosity and independent learning. With Choosito you can identify the most appropriate resources for your students while strengthening their research and problem solving skills.

The development of research skills is critical for students to become independent thinkers, nurture love of discovery and, ultimately, become managers of their own learning. Research is the systematic exploration and understanding of a topic that will naturally enhance the student's ability to solve a related problem or otherwise find truth or enlightened realization. It involved exploring your topic from different points of view. In order to do that, students need to find those resources that will help them explore. Having to navigate through noisy search results to find relevant resources is NOT helping your students become better researchers.

Students learn research skills by gathering, evaluating, and comparing content from relevant resources, not by opening and closing sites. With Choosito students spend more time comprehending and less time searching. Remember the web is not a library and search engines are not librarians.

The biggest information challenge for the 21st century school is not access to resources but curation of resource. With more than a billion web pages to read through, the task becomes impossible. Give your students access to curated content and safe web searches. Choosito is a language savvy tool that can read through web pages and figure out if they are appropriate for your students' varying reading abilities and topic of research.

Choosito innovates in education by offering a technology solution to the problem of finding resources that are right for your students. Its technologically advanced text analysis engine is the result of a multi-year long research.

With Choosito students can look for resources in the Library or the Web. The Library contains educational resources curated by educators. The Library is an excellent first stop for typical school projects. Students can focus on finding information using trusted resources. If you don't find what you need in the Library or if the topic would benefit from a variety of resources, select the Web.

A search can be narrowed down by selecting target reading level(s) and theme. The four reading levels Early, Emerging, Fluent, and Advanced correspond to 1st-3rd, 4th-6th, 7th-9th, and 10th-12th grades respectively. Sometimes it is advisable to select two adjacent levels. Fluent readers, for example, would not want to miss out on Emerging Reader resources which may contain useful information for their projects.

READY TO REBOOT THROUGH POETRY

The logo for National Poetry Month, featuring the words "national" and "poetry month" in a sans-serif font. "national" is in black and "poetry month" is in blue.

April 2015- National Poetry Month

Inaugurated by the Academy of American Poets in 1996, National Poetry Month, held every April, is the largest literary celebration in the world with schools, publishers, libraries, booksellers, and poets celebrating poetry's vital place in our culture.

Join the celebration by requesting a free poster and displaying it proudly. Encourage young people to participate in our Dear Poet

project or Poem in Your Pocket Day. Follow poetry events taking place nationwide at @POETSorg, and tweet about your own using #npm15.

What are the goals of National Poetry Month?

The goals of National Poetry Month are to:

- highlight the extraordinary legacy and ongoing achievement of American poets
- encourage the reading of poems
- assist teachers in bringing poetry into their classrooms
- increase the attention paid to poetry by national and local media
- encourage increased publication and distribution of poetry books, and
- encourage support for poets and poetry.

Teachervision

<https://www.teachervision.com/poetry/teacher-resources/6657.html>

Poets.org

<http://www.poets.org/national-poetry-month/home>

Read Write and Think

<http://tinyurl.com/24dljxl>

Scholastic

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/poetry/>

Reading Rockets

<http://www.readingrockets.org/calendar/poetry>



Celebrated globally, Earth Day is observed annually on April 22, a day that marks the birth of the modern environmental movement. The first Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 1970, when Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, announced the idea for “national teach-in on the environment.” Nelson, dismayed by recent ravages on the environment such as the 1969 oil spill in Santa Barbara, had been inspired by the student anti-war movement at the time, and he capitalized on the energy of that movement to put environmental concerns at the forefront. As a result, the first Earth Day was born when some twenty million Americans took to the streets in support of a more sustainable environment.

ReadWriteThink

<http://tinyurl.com/25su267>

Ecology and Choice: 16 Student Projects for Earth Day

<http://tinyurl.com/kbzyvzj>

ABC Teach

<http://tinyurl.com/qxtzsc5>

Envirolink

<http://earthday.envirolink.org/history.html>

Lesson Plan

<http://lessonplanspage.com/earthday-htm/>

Education World

<http://www.educationworld.com/holidays/archives/earthday.shtml>

Scholastic

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/collection/celebrate-earth-day>

NEA Earth Day Curriculum and Resources

<http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/Earth-Day-Curriculum-Resources-Grades-K-5.html>



Literacy Design Collaborative

LDC CoreTools is a guided online experience that supports a teacher in planning, creating, and thinking through each of the four LDC module sections. With LDC CoreTools you can:

- Work in a Google Docs-like planning and authoring environment that guides you to create College and Career Readiness Standards-aligned curricula including LDC modules and mini-tasks
- Share your work and collaborate in real time with colleagues within your school or across the country
- Review teacher videos, helping you to create engaging CCRS-aligned curricula for your students

<http://ldc.org/resources#Task-Templates>

http://ldc.org/sites/default/files/LDCBrief1-FillinTask_Final_0.pdf

Technology Innovations: Digital Scanners

What is a digital scanner app?

A digital scanner can be an app that allows you to quickly scan your documents on the go and export them as JPEG or multi-page PDF files.

Some apps include smart page detection for multiple pages, perspective correction and image enhancement to discern the edges of pages and image types. In addition, digital scanning apps offer powerful tools to organize and safely export your documents.

Other advantages include:

- Quickly scan any document anywhere, when you don't have a scanner at hand
- Avoid buying an expensive scanner that you are never going to use
- Get rid of all your paper documents by archiving them to Google Drive or other online storage
- Quickly scan a form you just printed when you don't have a scanner
- Archive handwritten notes or share them with colleagues
- Save handwritten memos, or book pages for future reference

Five Best Mobile Document Scanning Apps

<http://lifehacker.com/five-best-mobile-document-scanning-apps-1691417781>



Extensity: The Essential Chrome Extension Everyone Needs

<http://www.coolcatteacher.com/extensity/>

One way to slow down your lightning fast Chrome browser is installing TOO MANY EXTENSIONS!! Install Extensity and only turn on the extensions you need for the current task. Extensity is one extension to rule them all. Extensity will turn on and off other chrome extensions and keep your browser running lightning fast.

Extensity Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f3tb-xnCaQM>



Kids.gov April Events Calendar

<http://kids.usa.gov/grown-ups/calendar/april/index.shtml>



DropTask is a free visual task management app that is web based and available on iOS and Android. It is easy to use and lets you create a visual to do list that is color coded and with lots of features. You can take notes, chat with others, attach files, set reminders, work with others, and more. It is a very beautiful interface with drag and drop functionality.

DropTask - Access everything in one place

It also works with other apps, like Google Apps and Dropbox, with Evernote and Outlook integration in Beta versions now.

The Evernote integration is slated to go public very soon and looks pretty cool. Integration with Evernote allows you to send your notes from Evernote into DropTask where you can organize and manage your to-dos. Alternatively, if you have a task already in DropTask, you can send it to Evernote and create a new note where you will have the space to write down all your ideas and information related to that task.

Videos on Drop Task

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIm02QaDfng>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UiROuPzCa0>





Differentiating Instruction with Technology: A Framework for Success

When: Thursday, April 23, 4pm - 5pm

Description:

Presented by Vicki Davis @coolcatteacher, classroom teacher/ IT Director - Westwood Schools Click here for more information and to pre-register for the live session. Join the live session at the scheduled time at: www.instantpresenter.com/edwebnet10 . Join the Amazing Resources for Educators community to participate in online discussions with peers, for invitations to upcoming webinars, to view past webinar recordings, to take a quiz and receive a CE certificate for a past webinar, and for access to more resources. This webinar is sponsored by Quill.com and co-hosted by Big Deal Media.



National Education Association

<http://www.nea.org/parents>

NEA Parents – Visit nea.org to learn more about how parents and educators can work together to help students get the most out of their education.

Discovery Education

<http://www.discoveryeducation.com/parents/>

Discovery Education offers a wide variety of free family resources that you can trust to provide high quality, relevant material for you and your children. There are family activities, contests and a wealth of other resources that are vetted by Discovery Education and uniquely designed with parents in mind.

TECHNOLOGY HUMOR

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"So you're no good at small talk – just increase the font."



"Of course I believe in Bigfoot. I'm friends with him on Facebook!"

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"I memorized all of my e-mail addresses, passwords, and PIN numbers...but now I don't remember my name!"

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"Do the people on Twitter really care how many times you went to the bathroom today?"